



NEWS; Pg. 011

## Firms get nod for taking jam out of traffic

By Robin Washington

Bay State companies that subsidize employees' T passes, provide bicycle parking cages or other incentives to get drivers out of their cars were among those named to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Best Workplaces for Commuters list.

Making the grade were 38 Massachusetts employers, plus another 21 private and public workplaces at Logan International Airport that cooperate jointly on staff transit.

"People are eight times more likely to take public transit if it's subsidized for them," said the EPA's Patricia Klavon. "It's in all of our best interest to have employers offer commuter benefits to employees."

Mike Neville of Massachusetts General Hospital, which made the list, said those incentives also benefit employers who don't have to pay more money on costly parking spaces. "We just don't have enough parking space here on campus for everyone," he said, noting one program that offers preferential parking for employees who car pool.

Others are Zip Cars, private bus shuttles and T pass subsidies - the latter two saving him personally more than \$ 200 each month. "I pay \$ 94 for my Zone 2 pass and in bad weather, I can take the shuttle," he said. "If I were to drive it would cost me \$ 325 a month between parking, gas and other expenses."

Klavon said some employers needed help complying with a little-known state regulation requiring major firms to provide commuting incentives.